

respective swelling of the element bag portions E41 to E60. Further, in the predetermined positions of the base member 106, the element bag portions E1 to E17 may present the sense of touch for giving the concave and convex feeling with respect to the operator's finger or the like by the protuberant shape depending on the respective swelling of the element bag portions E1 to E17.

[0270] Accordingly, it is possible to execute the operation panel building mode (icon image+sense-of-touch-representing unit) by the sense of touch representation function depending on the layered sheet unit 140 and by the display function of the icon image of the display unit 29, so that the mobile phone 710 with the touch-sensitive variable sheet function for the icon touch, which is programmable between the layers, can be provided. Moreover, it is possible to improve the miniaturization and the operability of the input device 400, thereby enabling the reduction of the miss-operation, the cost down and the simplification of the manufacturing process of the mobile phone 710 to be realized.

Embodiment 5

[0271] FIGS. 29A and 29B show a configuration of a touch-sensitive sheet member 150 as a fifth embodiment and a driving example thereof. In this example, the CPU 32 for controlling the touch-sensitive sheet member 150 for representing a sense of touch controls a driving power supply 55 so as to supply a driving voltage to an element muscle portion 54 of touch-sensitive sheet member 150 corresponding to image contents displayed on the display unit 29, so that the element muscle portions 54 is available at predetermined positions of a base frame portion 53 corresponding to the image contents.

[0272] The touch-sensitive sheet member 150 shown in FIG. 29A contains an electrode 51 for upper portion, an electrode 52 for lower portion, the sheet shaped base frame portion 53 and the element muscle portion 54. The base frame portion 53 constitutes the base member and forms apertures 53a each having a predetermined aperture diameter. The element muscle portion 54 for representing a sense of touch is inserted in each of the apertures 53a. For the base frame portion 53, a transparent soft silicon rubber member of the hardness 20° to 40° is used. The apertures 53a are formed at predetermined positions of the base frame portion 53. For the element muscle portion 54, a polymer material (artificial muscle) having transparency and also electric conductivity is used. The polymer material includes a flexible and strong electric conductive Embra (trademark) film and an electric conductive gel polymer which is largely swellable in good solvent. An operation voltage of each of them is around 1.5V.

[0273] The element muscle portion 54 inserted in each of the apertures 53a is sandwiched between the electrode 51 and the electrode 52 from the upward/downward directions. The electrode 51 and the electrode 52 have predetermined sizes and a predetermined driving voltage is applied between the electrodes 51, 52. The electrode 51 and the electrode 52 with common pattern or individually divided pattern are applied. For the electrodes 51, 52, a transparent ITO film is used. According to the operation principle of this element muscle portion 54, the expansion and contraction motion thereof is obtained by exchanging polarity of the DC voltage which is applied to the electrodes 51, 52.

[0274] In the touch-sensitive sheet member 150 shown in FIG. 29B, the electrode 51 and the electrode 52 are connected to the driving power supply 55 constituting the power supply unit as a medium-supplying unit, which supplies the driving

voltage (medium) to the electrodes 51, 52 sandwiching the polymer material therebetween. For the driving power supply 55, a direct-current power supply is used. The driving power supply 55 outputs \pm DC voltage of around 1.0 to 3.0V. For example, when the voltage of plus polarity is applied to the electrode 51 and the voltage of minus polarity is applied to the electrode 52 from the driving power supply 55, minus ions are taken into the element muscle portion 54, so that the element muscle portion 54 swells.

[0275] On the other hand, when the voltage of minus polarity is applied to the electrode 51 and the voltage of plus polarity is applied to the electrode 52 from the driving power supply 55, minus ions are taken out of the element muscle portion 54, so that the element muscle portion 54 contracts.

[0276] Also, when the driving voltage is applied to the electrodes 51, 52 sandwiching an electric conductive elastomer (artificial muscle) of silicon, an acryl or the like therebetween, the electrodes are brought closer to each other. Consequently, the electric conductive elastomer leaks out to the outside of the electrodes 51, 52. When the supply of the driving voltage to the electrodes 51, 52 is stopped, the electrodes 51, 52 and also the electric conductive elastomer return to the original shapes if they are within the elastic displacement region.

[0277] By the way, the contraction rate of the human muscle is 20% and the maximum occurrence force is around 0.35 MPa (1 MPa=10 kgf/cm²). On the other hand, according to the high-occurrence force type artificial muscle, if the driving voltage is 1.5V, the deformation rate thereof is 12% to 15% and the maximum occurrence force is around 49 MPa. Also, according to the high-contraction type artificial muscle, if the driving voltage is 1.5V, the deformation rate thereof is 20% to 40% and the maximum occurrence force is around 2 to 10 MPa.

[0278] The touch-sensitive sheet member 150 is constituted in this manner and when the driving voltage is supplied to the electrodes 51, 52 arranged in the upward/downward directions of the element muscle portion 54 from the driving power supply 55, the element muscle portion 54 may function as an electric conductive polymer actuator in which the expansion and contraction motion of the swelling, the contraction or the like occurs in approximately two seconds. Consequently, in the spots of or at the predetermined positions of the base frame portion 53, the element muscle portion 54 can present the sense of touch for giving the concave and convex feeling with respect to the operator's finger 30a by the protuberant shape depending on the pressure change of the element muscle portion 54 or by the original shape when supplying no driving voltage.

[0279] FIG. 30 shows a configuration of an input device 500 to which the embodiment of the touch-sensitive sheet member 150 is applied. In this embodiment, the input device 500 which can carry out the operation panel building mode is provided. In the operation panel building mode, seventeen element muscle portions G1 to G17 constituting a first group and/or eight element muscle portions G18 to G25 constituting a second group, which are provided on the same plane of the base frame portion 53, are selectable for every group.

[0280] To the input device 500 shown in FIG. 30 to which the touch-sensitive sheet member 150 shown in FIG. 29 is applied, any information is inputted by the slide and/or press operation depending on the finger or the like of the operator